GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3826
ANSWERED ON:17.04.2002
HIV/AIDS CASES AMONG THE MIGRANT YOUTH
HANNAN MOLLAH

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned `AIDS spurt in Orissa district raises alarm` appearing in `Indian Express` dated January 15, 2002;

(b) whether the HIV-positive cases are on the rise, particularly among the migrant youth;

(c) whether any law has been enacted to make blood tests for migrant labourers and other susceptible group compulsory;

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government and the details thereof;

(e) whether any programme has been launched for increasing the awareness about AIDS among these people; and

(f) if so, the result thereon?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): No, Sir. However, migrant workers are more vulnerable to HIV infection.

(c): No, Sir.

(d): Does not arise.

(e): Various programmes are in operation to increase the level of awareness about HIV/AIDS among the people including migrant labourers. These include

- Family Health Awareness Campaigns in rural & urban slum areas.
- Mass Media Campaigns through radio, television and print media.
- Targetted intervention programme for high risk groups including migrant workers.

(f): There is no specific data available for migrant labourers. However, nation-wide Behavioural Surveillance Survey conducted by Government in year 2001 revealed that 71.7 - 99% of the general population in urban areas and 45.4%-98.9% population in rural areas are aware about HIV/AIDS. The figures for Orissa are - 86.5% people in urban areas and 64.1% people in rural areas.